

1 CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for sending improved quality video data to a client, comprising the
2 steps of:
3 sending a video stream to said client in accordance with a set of streaming
4 constraints, said video stream comprising at least a subset of video
5 information from a first source;
6 receiving a signal indicating a relaxation of said streaming constraints;
7 in response to said signal, accessing a set of improved quality video information
8 from a second source, said improved quality video information comprising
9 an improved quality version of at least a subset of the video information in
10 said video stream; and
11 sending said set of improved quality video information to said client.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein said step of accessing said set of improved
2 quality video information comprises the steps of:
3 determining a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
4 correlating said first reference point with a second reference point in said second
5 source; and
6 retrieving said set of improved quality video information from said second source
7 based upon said second reference point.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said set of improved quality video information
2 comprises a still image.

- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein said still image takes the form of an image file
2 selected from a group consisting of a JPEG file, a GIF file, a BMP file, a TIFF
3 file, a PIC file, a MAC file and a PCD file.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein said signal indicates that video information is to
2 be displayed at said client at a slower presentation rate, wherein said improved
3 quality video information comprises a plurality of still images, and wherein said
4 step of sending said set of improved quality video information comprises the step
5 of sending said plurality of still images to said client for display at said slower
6 presentation rate.
- 1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein said second source comprises a set of
2 preprocessed video information which is ready to be streamed, and wherein said
3 improved quality video information comprises at least a subset of said
4 preprocessed video information.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6, wherein said signal indicates that video information is to
2 be displayed at said client at a slower presentation rate, and wherein said step of
3 sending said set of improved quality video information comprises the step of
4 streaming said improved quality video information to said client at an appropriate
5 streaming rate to accommodate said slower presentation rate.
- 1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein said step of accessing said set of improved
2 quality video information comprises the steps of:
3 determining a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
4 correlating said first reference point with a second reference point in said set of
5 preprocessed video information; and

6 retrieving said set of improved quality video information from said set of
7 preprocessed video information based upon said second reference point.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein said signal is a pause control signal.

1 10. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions for
2 sending improved quality video data to a client, comprising the steps of, wherein
3 execution of the one or more sequences of instructions by one or more processors
4 causes the one or more processors to perform the steps of:
5 sending a video stream to said client in accordance with a set of streaming
6 constraints, said video stream comprising at least a subset of video
7 information from a first source;
8 receiving a signal indicating a relaxation of said streaming constraints;
9 in response to said signal, accessing a set of improved quality video information
10 from a second source, said improved quality video information comprising
11 an improved quality version of at least a subset of the video information in
12 said video stream; and
13 sending said set of improved quality video information to said client.

1 11. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein said step of accessing said
2 set of improved quality video information comprises the steps of:
3 determining a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
4 correlating said first reference point with a second reference point in said second
5 source; and
6 retrieving said set of improved quality video information from said second source
7 based upon said second reference point.

1 12. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein said set of improved quality
2 video information comprises a still image.

1 13. The computer-readable medium of claim 12, wherein said still image takes the
2 form of an image file selected from a group consisting of a JPEG file, a GIF file, a
3 BMP file, a TIFF file, a PIC file, a MAC file and a PCD file.

1 14. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein said signal indicates that
2 video information is to be displayed at said client at a slower presentation rate,
3 wherein said improved quality video information comprises a plurality of still
4 images, and wherein said step of sending said set of improved quality video
5 information comprises the step of sending said plurality of still images to said
6 client for display at said slower presentation rate.

1 15. The computer-readable medium of claim 10, wherein said second source
2 comprises a set of preprocessed video information which is ready to be streamed,
3 and wherein said improved quality video information comprises at least a subset
4 of said preprocessed video information.

1 16. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein said signal indicates that
2 video information is to be displayed at said client at a slower presentation rate,
3 and wherein said step of sending said set of improved quality video information
4 comprises the step of streaming said improved quality video information to said
5 client at an appropriate streaming rate to accommodate said slower presentation
6 rate.

1 17. The computer-readable medium of claim 15, wherein said step of accessing said
2 set of improved quality video information comprises the steps of:
3 determining a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
4 correlating said first reference point with a second reference point in said set of
5 preprocessed video information; and
6 retrieving said set of improved quality video information from said set of
7 preprocessed video information based upon said second reference point.

1 18. The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein said signal is a pause
2 control signal.

1 19. An apparatus configured to send improved quality video data to a client, the
2 apparatus comprising:
3 a first source for video information, wherein said first source of video information
4 has stored thereon at least a subset of video information corresponding to a
5 video stream;
6 a second source for improved quality video information, wherein said second
7 source comprises an improved quality version of at least a subset of the
8 video information in said video stream; and
9 a video server, coupled to said first source and said second source, wherein said
10 video server is configured to stream video information from said first
11 source in accordance with a set of streaming constraints, and, in response
12 to a signal indicating a relaxation of said set of streaming constraints, to
13 send improved quality video information from said second source.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said video server is further configured to:

2 determine a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
3 correlate said first reference point with a second reference point in said second
4 source; and
5 retrieve said set of improved quality video information from said second source
6 based upon said second reference point.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said improved quality video information
2 comprises a still image.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 21, wherein said still image takes the form of an image file
2 selected from a group consisting of a JPEG file, a GIF file, a BMP file, a TIFF
3 file, a PIC file, a MAC file and a PCD file.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said signal indicates that video information is
2 to be displayed at the client at a slower presentation rate, wherein said improved
3 quality video information comprises a plurality of still images, and wherein said
4 video server is further configured to send said plurality of stills to the client for
5 display at said slower presentation rate.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said second source comprises a set of
2 preprocessed video information which is ready to be streamed, and wherein said
3 improved quality video information comprises at least a subset of said
4 preprocessed video information.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said signal indicates that video information is
2 to be displayed at the client at a slower presentation rate, and wherein said video
3 server is further configured to stream said improved quality video information to

the client at an appropriate streaming rate to accommodate said slower presentation rate.

26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein said video server is further configured to:
determine a first reference point from the information in said video stream;
correlate said first reference point with a second reference point in said set of
preprocessed video information; and
retrieve said set of improved quality video information from said set of
preprocessed video information based upon said second reference point.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein said signal is a pause control signal.

28. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said video server comprises:
a stream server, wherein said stream server is configured to receive said signal
and to send video information; and
a video pump, coupled to said stream server and said first source and said second
source, wherein said video pump is configured to communicate with said
stream server and access information from said first source and said
second source;

Add
A1

Add